Principles of citing, MLA Style:
1. When citing any work, no matter what type or format, use a series of “core elements”.
2. Omit any core elements not relevant to the work.
3. In MLA style, "containers" describe how your source was published or made available to readers.

Core Elements, in order of placement in citation. Note each element ends in a comma or a period:
1. Author.
2. Title of Source.
3. *Title of Container*,
4. Other Contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.
10. Optional elements.

About Containers:
Most sources are part of a larger work. In MLA these larger works are called “containers.” Examples:
- A webpage (source) is part of a website (container)
- An article (source) is part of a magazine (container)
- A short story (source) is part of a book (container).

A few types of works are self-contained, and so are not part of a larger work, but are themselves a large work. Examples:
- A book
- A film
- A work of art seen in person

Use core elements 3 through 9 to give details about the container. Repeat these same elements (3 through 9) for works that have 2 containers. Example:
- An article (the source) is published in a journal (1st container) which is available in an online database (2nd container).

Formatting Works Cited list:
Works Cited entries are created by writing each of the above core elements, in the order given and with the punctuation given (usually a period or comma). Format entries with:
- double spaced lines and 12 point font,
- a “hanging indent” (the first line of each entry is flush with left margin, and following lines are indented .5 inch),
- citations in alphabetical order, by the first word of the entry.
- See handout “How to Format Works Cited Page” for more guidance: guides.kirkwood.edu/citation/mla.

For this handout and many more resources on MLA Style, see
http://guides.kirkwood.edu/citation/mla.

This handout created for Kirkwood Community College by Library Services. Updated 2018.august
Author.

One author: Last/Family name, First name Middle name.
Rushkoff, Douglas.
Kalish, Mildred Armstrong.

Two authors: Last, First Middle, and First Middle Last.
Kauffman, James M., and Harold J. Burbach.

Three or more authors: Give only first listed author, Last, First Middle, then “et al.” to indicate multiple authors.
Wolfteich, Claire E., et al.

Corporate author: Organization name as it appears in work.
Modern Language Association.

Government author: Name of country, Department.
United States, National Institutes of Health.

No author given: Begin citation with Title of Source.

Title of Source.

Title of source will use either quotation marks, for shorter works within a larger work, or italics for self-contained works such as a movie or a book. Capitalize first, last, and principal words.
“A Perfect Day for Bananafish.”
The Godfather.

Include any subtitle after a colon:
ScreenAgers: Lessons in Chaos from Digital Kids.

If no title is given, write a generic description, using sentence capitalization and no quotation marks:
Photograph of sunset at Rocky Mountain National Park.

Title of Container.

The container is the larger source that contains the work you are citing. See “DIRECTIONS” in this handout for more information on the Container. Use italics and follow with a comma. First, last, and principal words capitalized.
Journal of Education,

Other Contributors.

If appropriate, include any additional names important to your research or to identification of the work. Write name: First Middle Last, and precede with a descriptive phrase or noun (directed by, translated by, general editor). Use sentence capitalization.
Translated by Jay Rubin,
performances by James Stewart and Donna Reed

Version.
Use to indicate an edition or version. Abbreviate edition (ed.) and revised (rev.). Use sentence capitalization.
Updated ed.,
5th ed.,
unabridged version,

Number.
Use number element when source is part of a numbered sequence, such as a journal article or a television series episode. Abbreviate volume (vol.) and issue/number (no.)
vol. 42, no. 5,
season 2, episode 10,

Publisher.
Used mostly for books and websites.

- Do not use in journal article citations.
- Abbreviate “University” (U) and “Press” (P)
- For websites look after the © at the bottom of the page.
- Not needed if same as the website title.
University of Chicago P,
RKO,
University of Iowa Museum of Art,

Publication date.
Format: day month year. Abbreviate months longer than four letters. If more than one date is given, use the date most relevant or most recent:
27 Aug. 1971,
June 1995,

If no publication date is given, omit the date, but add the access date under “Optional elements”.

Location.
Use location element for any information that helps the reader locate the source. This includes:
- The URL of a website or online article, without the http://
- The page numbers of an article: pp. 65-8.
- The doi of a journal article (use instead of URL):
- The museum, if an artwork was viewed in person:
The Art Institute of Chicago.

Optional elements.
Include only if important to your use of the source:
- Date of access for online work with content that changes often, or that doesn’t have a published date. Write:
Accessed 7 June 2016.
- Use for unexpected formats (Lecture, Address, Transcript, etc.)
Examples

**Article or essay, online, Library database**


**Webpage, online article**


**Book; Chapter in a book; eBook**


**Film or video**

*It’s a Wonderful Life*. Directed by Frank Capra, performances by James Stewart and Donna Reed, RKO, 1946.


**Photographic reproduction of artwork, online**


**Photograph, personal; online**

Dorothy Thompson with the Waucoma High School basketball team. [Circa 1930], personal photograph.

Hartmann, Trish. *Southern Leopard Frog*. 26 June 2013. *Flickr*, flic.kr/p/eW8jiS.

**Personal interview**

Rivera, Julian. Personal interview. 8 June 2017.
### Core Elements:

1. Author.
2. Title of work. [with quotes or italics]
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

**Container 1: period after last elements in container**

10. Date of access, unexpected format, etc.

### Core Elements:

1. Author.
3. Title of container, 
   *The Environment*,
4. Other contributors, 
   edited by Lynn M. Zott,
5. Version, --
6. Number, --
7. Publisher, 
   *Greenhaven P*,
8. Publication date, 
   2014.
9. Location.

**Container 2: period after last element in container**

10. Date of access, unexpected format, etc.

### Citation:


For more templates, including fillable templates for use in Google Docs and Excel, see Kirkwood Library’s online guide: [http://guides.kirkwood.edu/citation/mla](http://guides.kirkwood.edu/citation/mla)